

In re: Appln No. 09/745,304
Amendment dated June 28, 2004
Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

Atty Docket: 6006-019

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful telephone interview of May 26, 2004. Pursuant to the agreement reached during that interview, the foregoing amended claims are presented for allowance.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Interview Summary, this is the Applicants' understanding of the substance of the interview. Claims 27, 35, 37, 39 and 40 were discussed. However, the allowable claims were deemed to be Claims 27-37, 39, 40 and 51. It was agreed that one indefiniteness rejection could be overcome by changing "at a deposition rate that controls a formation of heterogeneities" to "at a deposition rate that controls a formation of heterogeneities in the metal" in Claim 27. It was also agreed that in Claims 35 and 37, another indefiniteness rejection could be overcome by changing the term "the" to "a" (as related to deposition chamber pressure and substrate temperature, respectively). In addition, it was agreed that amending Claims 39 and 40 to independent form would overcome the objections to claims 39, 40 and 51. It is agreed that control of heterogeneities is directed to producing a substantially homogeneous metal film, and therefore even in a substantially homogeneous film, some degree of heterogeneities may still remain in the film.

Claims 27-51 were pending prior to the present amendment. Upon entry of the present amendment, Claims 27-37, 38, 40 and 51 are pending, wherein Claims 27, 38, and 40 are independent claims. Because only three independent claims are pending and the number of total claims is less than the largest number independent and total claims in the application to date, it is believed that no additional claim fees are required. The remaining claims are canceled without prejudice to the right of the Applicants to prosecute such claims in a continuing application.

Claim 27 was amended to indicate that the heterogeneity to be controlled was in the metal. This amendment is also incorporated into all pending claims depending from Claim 27 (Claims 28-37).

Claim 35 was amended from "the deposition chamber pressure" to "a deposition chamber pressure."

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Claim 37 was amended from "the substrate temperature" to "a substrate temperature."

The foregoing amendment should overcome the indefiniteness rejections, and should place claims 27-37 in condition for allowance.

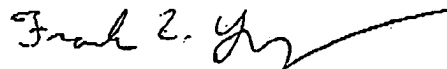
The Examiner had indicated that Claims 39 and 40 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate all depending elements. Claim 38 was amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 39, thus effectuating the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 40 was amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 38. The amendment to Claim 40 was incorporated by the pending dependent Claim 51. Accordingly, Claims 38, 40 and 51 are in condition for allowance.

Summary

Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims have overcome all of the Examiner's rejections and objections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner require any further information or wish to discuss any aspect of this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

It is believed that no fees are required for this filing. However, should a fee be required, the director is hereby authorized to deduct any such fee from deposit account 18-2000. This page is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,



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June 28, 2004

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